

(iii) *Cooperative Resource Management Division*. Headed by the division director, this division is responsible for participating in the formulating of National policies and procedures on cooperative resource management. The division conducts research and analysis and gives technical assistance to cooperatives on their overall structure, strategic management and planning, financial issues, and operational characteristics to improve their use of resources, financial policies, and ability to adapt to market conditions. The division conducts research and analysis of policy, taxation, Federal laws, State statutes, and common laws that apply to cooperative incorporation, structure, and operation to assist cooperatives in meeting legal requirements.

(4) *Office of the Deputy Administrator, Community Development*. Headed by the Deputy Administrator, Community Development, this office is responsible to the Under Secretary, Rural Development, for coordinating and overseeing all functions in the Community Outreach and Empowerment Program areas. The office assists in providing leadership and coordination to National and local rural economic and community development efforts. For appropriation and accounting purposes, this office is located under RBS. The office directs the following two divisions:

(i) *Empowerment Program Division*. Headed by the division director, this division is responsible for formulating policies and developing plans, standards, procedures, and schedules for accomplishing RBS activities related to “community empowerment programs”, including EZ/EC, AmeriCorps, and other initiatives. The office develops informational materials and provides technical advice and services to support States on community empowerment programs. It also generates information about rural conditions and strategies and techniques for promoting rural economic development for community empowerment programs.

(ii) *Community Outreach Division*. Headed by the division director, this division is responsible for designing and overseeing overall systems and developing resources to support State

and community level implementation activities for RBS programs. The office designs program delivery systems and tools, removes impediments to effective community-level action, supports field offices with specialized skills, and establishes partnerships with National organizations with grass-roots membership to assure that programs and initiatives are designed and implemented in a way that empowers communities. It develops methods for working with rural business intermediaries to assist them in providing technical assistance to new, small business, and provides Internet-based services to 1890 Land-grant universities, EZ/EC, and AmeriCorps volunteers, linking RBS information support to communities with high levels of need.

(5) *Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Corporation*. Headed by a director, this Corporation is responsible for providing and monitoring financial assistance for the development and commercialization of new nonfood and nonfeed products from agricultural and forestry commodities in accordance with 7 U.S.C. 5901 *et seq.* The Corporation acts as a catalyst in forming private and public partnerships and promotes new uses of agricultural materials. It expands market opportunities for U.S. farmers through development of value-added industrial products and promotes environmentally friendly products. For budget and accounting purposes, this office is assigned to RBS. The director of the Corporation is responsible to the Office of the Secretary.

§§ 2003.27–2003.50 [Reserved]

PART 2018—GENERAL

Subparts A–E [Reserved]

Subpart F—Availability of Information

Sec.

2018.251 General statement.

2018.252 Public inspection and copying.

2018.253 Indexes.

2018.254 Requests for records.

2018.255 Appeals.

2018.256–2018.300 [Reserved]

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552.

Subparts A–E [Reserved]

Subpart F—Availability of Information

SOURCE: 61 FR 32645, June 25, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

§ 2018.251 General statement.

In keeping with the spirit of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the policy of Rural Development and its component agencies, Rural Housing Service (RHS), Rural Utilities Service (RUS), and Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), governing access to information is one of nearly total availability, limited only by the counter-vailing policies recognized by the FOIA.

§ 2018.252 Public inspection and copying.

Facilities for inspection and copying are provided by the Freedom of Information Officer (FOIO) in the National Office, by the State Director in each State Office, by the Rural Development Manager (formerly, District Director) in each District Office, and by the Community Development Manager (formerly, County Supervisor) in each County Office. A person requesting information may inspect such materials and, upon payment of applicable fees, obtain copies. Material may be reviewed during regular business hours. If any of the Rural Development materials requested are not located at the office to which the request was made, the request will be referred to the office where such materials are available.

§ 2018.253 Indexes.

Since Rural Development does not maintain any materials to which 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(2) applies, it maintains no indexes.

§ 2018.254 Requests for records.

Requests for records are to be submitted in accordance with 7 CFR 1.3 and may be made to the appropriate Community Development Manager, Rural Development Manager, State Administrative Management Program Director (formerly, State Administrative Officer), State Director, Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Specialist, or

Freedom of Information Officer. The last two positions are located in the Rural Development Support Services Division, Washington, DC 20250. The phrase “FOIA REQUEST” should appear on the outside of the envelope in capital letters. The FOIA requests under the Farm Credit Programs (formally FmHA Farmer Programs) should be forwarded to the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Freedom of Information Officer, Room 3624, South Agriculture Building, 14th & Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–0506. Requests should be as specific as possible in describing the records being requested. The FOIO, Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Specialist, each State Administrative Management Program Director, each State Director, each Rural Development Manager, and each Community Development Manager are delegated authority to act respectively at the national, state, district, or county level on behalf of Rural Development to:

(a) Deny requests for records determined to be exempt under one or more provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552(b);

(b) Make discretionary releases (unless prohibited by other authority) of such records when it is determined that the public interests in disclosure outweigh the public and/or private ones in withholding; and

(c) Reduce or waive fees to be charged where determined to be appropriate.

§ 2018.255 Appeals.

If all or any part of an initial request is denied, it may be appealed in accordance with 7 CFR 1.7 to that particular Agency possessing the documents. Please select the appropriate Agency to forward your FOIA appeal from the following addresses: Administrator, Rural Housing Service, Room 5014, AG Box 0701, 14th & Independence Avenue, SW.—South Building, Washington, DC 20250–0701; Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Room 5045, AG Box 3201, 14th & Independence Avenue, SW.—South Building, Washington, DC 20250–3201 and Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Room 4501, AG Box 1510, 14th & Independence Avenue, SW.—South Building, Washington, DC

RHS, RBS, RUS, FSA, USDA

§ 2045.1754

20250–1510. The phrase “FOIA AP-PEAL” should appear on the front of the envelope in capital letters.

§§ 2018.256–2018.300 [Reserved]

PART 2045—GENERAL

Subparts A–II [Reserved]

Subpart JJ—Rural Development—Utilization of Gratuitous Services

Sec.

2045.1751 General.

2045.1752 Policy.

2045.1753 Authority to accept gratuitous services.

2045.1754 Scope of gratuitous services performed.

2045.1755 Preparation and disposition of agreement forms.

2045.1756 Records and reports.

EXHIBIT A TO SUBPART JJ OF PART 2045—
AGREEMENT FORM

AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 1989; 42 U.S.C. 1480.

SOURCE: 43 FR 3694, Jan. 27, 1978, unless otherwise noted.

Subparts A–II [Reserved]

**Subpart JJ—Rural Development—
Utilization of Gratuitous Services**

§ 2045.1751 General.

Section 331(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Pub. L. 92–419), and section 506(a) of the Housing Act of 1949, empower the Secretary of Agriculture to accept and utilize voluntary and uncompensated services in carrying out the provisions of the above cited Acts. The Secretary has delegated those authorities to the Administrator of the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) or its successor agency under Public Law 103–354 in 7 CFR 2.70(a) (1) and (2).

§ 2045.1752 Policy.

Voluntary and uncompensated (gratuitous) services may be accepted with the consent of the agency concerned, from the following sources under the conditions set forth in Exhibit A, “Agreement for Utilization of Employee of (*Enter Official Title of Governing Body or Other Authorized Organization*) By the Farmers Home Adminis-

tration or its successor agency under Public Law 103–354” (Agreement Form).

(a) Any agency of State government or of any territory or political subdivision.

(b) Non-profit, educational, and charitable organizations, provided that no partisan, political, or profit motive is involved either explicitly or implicitly.

§ 2045.1753 Authority to accept gratuitous services.

(a) State Directors, Director, Personnel Division, and Director, Finance Office, are hereby authorized to accept and utilize gratuitous services offered by the governmental agencies listed in § 2045.1752(a).

(b) An offer received by an FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103–354 State or County Office from a source listed in § 2045.1752(b) shall be transmitted to the National Office, Attention: Director, Personnel Division, for decision. The offer will be accompanied by copies of the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws (if the organization is incorporated), a statement that the organization accepts the conditions set forth in the Agreement Form, and evidence that the organization is financially able to meet the required fiscal obligations of the agreement.

§ 2045.1754 Scope of gratuitous services performed.

(a) Gratuitous services accepted in accordance with this subpart may be utilized to perform any function performed by regular FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103–354 employees (excluding Committee members). Such services must not result in the displacement of employees. Most of the gratuitous services should be performed at the County Office level and conform to a standard FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103–354 position description. A nonstandard position description may be developed and used, depending on current agency needs in a particular office and gratuitous skills available.

(b) Orientation and other training will be provided by FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103–354 so that gratuitous services may be performed in accordance with current